

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BILL ANALYSIS

AMENDMENT DATE: Original
POSITION: Oppose

BILL NUMBER: AB 770
AUTHOR: N. Torres
RELATED BILLS: AB 423
(Torres)/2009

BILL SUMMARY: Emergency Telephone Systems

This bill would require the California Technology Agency (Agency) to include standards for recruitment and training of public safety dispatchers in its currently required review and update of technical and operational standards for public agency systems. This bill would also expand the size and responsibilities of the State 911 Advisory Board, and require the Board to advise the Agency concerning issues relating to calls in a language other than English.

FISCAL SUMMARY

The Agency estimates \$96,000 annually in personal services costs to develop, implement, and audit the training and recruitment program requirements, and \$8,000 in travel and per diem expense reimbursement for two State 911 Advisory Board members.

Unknown, but potentially significant, reimbursable mandate costs. Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution provides for reimbursement of local government costs when the Legislature or a state agency mandates a new program or higher level of service. This bill provides that the Agency shall include standards for recruitment and training of public safety dispatchers, most of which are employed by local governments. If the adopted standards result in additional costs to local governments for recruitment and training of dispatchers, the bill could result in a reimbursable mandate. Until the standards are adopted, it would be difficult to estimate the cost.

COMMENTS

Finance is opposed to the bill because of the potentially significant mandate costs, and because the Agency indicates its Public Safety Communications Office (PSCO) does not have the staff resources or expertise to develop and implement the training and recruitment standards for emergency dispatchers. PSCO is responsible for administering the 911 call delivery function and annually setting the 911 surcharge rate. For example, PSCO has established a master purchase agreement with multiple customer premise equipment providers that meet defined minimum equipment performance standards. PSCO also administers a local assistance program to fund network infrastructure and customer premise equipment.

The Agency indicates that a number of public safety organizations, including the Association of Public Safety Officials International and the National Academies of Emergency Dispatchers, have already established training standards and best practices for emergency dispatchers.

Related Legislation:

AB 423/2009 (Torres), which was substantially the same as this bill, was vetoed by Governor Schwarzenegger because other nongovernmental organizations already adopt best practices for recruitment and training of dispatchers.

Analyst/Principal (0744) J. Gregg	Date	Program Budget Manager Mark Hill	Date
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Department Deputy Director	Date
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Governor's Office:	By:	Date:	Position Approved _____
			Position Disapproved _____

BILL ANALYSIS	Form DF-43 (Rev 03/95 Buff)
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BILL NUMBER

AB 770

<u>Fund Code</u>	<u>Title</u>
0022	Emergency Telephone Number Acct, State

Title

Emergency Telephone Number Acct, State